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To: Examiner Peter Choi  
US Patent Office  
Fax Phone Number: (571) 273-8300

Art Unit: 3623

Application Control Number 10/036,200

Date: June 26, 2006

From Norman Ken Ouchi

Examiner Choi

Attached is a discussion of Du et al, US Patent 5,823,239 with respect to the obviousness of the present invention.

Please call me at 408-757-5862 after you have read the discussion if you have questions.

Five pages plus this cover sheet

Thank you,

  
Norman Ken Ouchi

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## Response to USPTO Office Action Mailed 5/5/06

Examiner: Peter Choi

Art Unit: 3623

Title: Object Based Workflow Route

Application Number: 10/036,200

Confirmation Number 2842

Inventor: Norman Ken Ouchi

Date: June 26, 2006

**Status:** This action is FINAL.

**Disposition of Claims:** Claims 21-39 are pending

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Du et al (U.S. Patent 5,826,239) for obviousness where the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skills in light of Du.

The inventor appreciates the detailed analysis by the examiner. The inventor disagrees with the conclusion that the present invention is obvious to one of ordinary skill given Du. The business object described by Du does not provide additional insight to one of ordinary skill to derive the present invention. The present invention is significantly different from Du and not obvious.

The discussion will follow the structure of the analysis by the examiner.

### Claim 21.

Du discloses a two level resource management in a workflow using a global level resource manager and a local level resource manager for a single route. Du does not disclose a first level route and second level route or the derivation of the second level route from the first level route. Du describes a "business object" to "encapsulate whatever piece of work each process activity needs to accomplish". This business object is like a subroutine so that the function need not be coded repeatedly and performs only the function defined for the business object. A route can be assembled by connecting a sequence of business objects but, as taught by Du, there is no